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APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT**

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TITLE: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
 PROCESSING DIRECTORY EVENTS

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METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING DIRECTORY EVENTS

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field Of The Invention

The present invention generally relates to the management of directory events, and more particularly relates to the synchronization and ordering of
10 directory events in a highly distributed directory environment.

Description Of The Related Art

INS. AI > A directory service provider server which controls any manipulation of data stored within a master directory database as requested by a directory client.
15 For each data manipulation, the directory service provider server transmits an event notification describing the data manipulation to all directory clients. The performance of the directory service provider server in manipulating data stored within the master directory database in accordance with numerous received requests from one or more directory clients can be impeded as the directory
20 service provider server concurrently attempts to transmit corresponding event notifications to all of the directory clients. This is particularly true when the directory service provider server is also receiving new data manipulation requests from directory clients.

Also, in a highly distributed environment where numerous directory clients
25 have registered to receive directory events, the processing overhead for event notification by the directory service provider server can become significant. This will not only affect the directory service provider server's processing of event notifications, but potentially other processes in the environment as well.

Additionally, transmission of an event notification by the directory service provider server to a directory client can arrive to the directory client a significant amount of time before the manipulated data has been replicated by the master
5 directory database in all replicate directory databases. A directory client may therefore futilely attempt to access a corresponding replicate directory database for the manipulated data prior to the master directory database's replication of the manipulated data into that particular replicate directory database.

10 The computer industry is therefore continually striving to improve upon the processing of directory events in a distributed environment.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One form of the present invention is a directory event method. A directory service provider server is operated to perform a data manipulation within a master directory database. An event master server is operated to assign a sequence number to the data manipulation, and to store the sequence number within the master directory database.

A second form of the present invention is a directory event system comprising a master directory database, a directory service provider server, and an event master server. The master directory database is operable to store data. The directory service provider server is operable to manipulate the data. The event master server is operable to assign a sequence number to any manipulation of the data within the master directory database by the directory service provider server.

A third form of the present invention is a computer program product in a computer useable medium. The computer program product comprises a means for monitoring a first queue for a modified message; a means for assigning a first sequence number to said modified message when said modified message is within said first queue; a means for storing said first sequence number within a master directory database; and a means for providing an event message including said first sequence number and an event notification.

The foregoing forms and other forms, features and advantages of the invention will become further apparent from the following detailed description of the presently preferred embodiments, read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. The detailed description and drawings are merely illustrative of the invention rather than limiting, the scope of the invention being defined by the appended claims and equivalents thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1A is schematic diagram of network of distributed data processing systems in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 1B is a schematic diagram of a computer architecture of a data processing system as known in the art;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of an architecture of a directory event system in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 3A is flowchart of one embodiment of an event message routine in accordance with the present invention; and

FIG. 3B is flowchart of one embodiment of an event notification routine in accordance with the present invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE
PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With reference now to the figures, **FIG. 1A** depicts a network of data processing systems. Distributed data processing system **10** contains a network **20**, a network **21**, a network **22**, a network **23**, and a network **24**, which are the media used to provide communications links between various devices and computers connected together within distributed data processing system **10**. Network **20**, network **21**, network **22**, network **23**, and network **24** may include permanent connections, such as wire or fiber optic cables, or temporary connections made through telephone or wireless communications.

In the depicted example, a directory service provider server **30**, an event master server **40**, an event service server **41**, and an event client server **44** are connected to network **20** along with a master directory database **31**. Event service server **41**, an event client **42** and an event client **43** are connected to network **21** along with a replicate directory database **32**. Event client **42**, a directory client **50a**, a directory client **50b**, and a directory client **50c** are connected to network **22**. Event client **43**, a directory client **50d**, a directory client **50e**, and a directory client **50f** are connected to network **23**. Event client server **44**, a directory client **50g**, a directory client **50h**, and a directory client **50i** are connected to network **24**. Directory clients **50a-50f** are in electrical communication with replicate directory database **32**, and directory clients **50g-50i** are in electrical communication with master directory database **31**.

Servers **30** and **40-43**, and clients **50a-50i** may be represented by a variety of computing devices, such as mainframes, personal computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), etc. Distributed data processing system **10** may include additional servers, clients, networks, routers, and other devices not shown.

Distributed data processing system **10** may include the Internet with network **20**, network **21**, network **22**, network **23** and network **24** representing a worldwide collection of networks and gateways that use the TCP/IP suite of protocols to communicate with one another. Of course, distributed data processing system **10** may also include a number of different types of networks, such as, for example, an intranet, a local area network (LAN), or a wide area network (WAN).

The present invention could be implemented on a variety of hardware platforms. **FIG. 1A** is intended as an example of a heterogeneous computing environment and not as an architectural limitation for the present invention.

With reference now to **FIG. 1B**, a diagram depicts typical computer architecture of a data processing system, such as those shown in **FIG. 1A**, in which the present invention may be implemented. Data processing system **60** contains one or more central processing units (CPUs) **62** connected to internal system bus **61**, which interconnects random access memory (RAM **63**, read-only memory (ROM) **64**, and input/output adapter **65**, which supports various I/O devices, such as printer **70**, disk units **71**, or other devices not shown, such as a sound system, etc. A communication adapter **66**, a user interface adapter **67**, and a display adapter **68** are also connected to bus **61**. Communication adapter **66** provides bus **61** with access to a communication link **72**. User interface adapter **67** connects bus **61** to various user devices, such as keyboard **73** and mouse **74**, or other device not shown, such as a touch screen, stylus, etc. Display adapter **68** connects bus **61** to a display device **75**.

Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the hardware in **FIG. 1B** may vary depending on the system implementation. For example, the system may have one or more processors, and other peripheral devices may be used in addition to or in place of the hardware depicted in **FIG. 1B**. The depicted example is not meant to imply architectural limitations with respect to the present invention. In addition to being able to be implemented on a variety of hardware platforms, the present invention may be implemented in a variety of software environments. A typical operating system may be used to control program execution within the data processing system.

Referring to **FIGS. 1A** and **2**, as known by those with ordinary skill in the art, directory service provider server **30** manipulates data within master directory database **31** as directed by a directory data manipulation request from one of directory clients **50a-50i**, and master directory database **30** thereafter replicates the manipulated data within master directory database **30** to replicate directory database **31**. A directory event system **11** in accordance with the present invention provides event notification(s) to one or more of directory clients **50g-50i** upon the manipulation of data in master directory database **31** by directory service provider server **10**, and provides the event notification(s) to one or more of directory clients **50a-50f** upon a replication of the manipulated data from master directory database **31** to replicate directory database **32**. Directory service provider server **30** is therefore not burdened with the task of providing the event notification(s) to directory clients **50a-50i**. As a result, directory service provider server **30** is consistently available to timely and effectively handle all directory data manipulation requests from directory clients **50d-50i**.

Directory event system **11** will now be described herein as implemented within event master server **40**, event service server **41**, and event client server **42**. However, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate software equivalents for event master server **40**, event service server **41**, and event client server **42**.

Directory event system **11** comprises an event message provider **40a** and a queue **40b** within event master server **40**. Directory service provider server **30** operatively shares queue **40b** with event message provider **40a**. Queue **40b** serves as the only link between directory event system **11** and directory service provider server **30** to thereby enable directory event system **11** and directory service provider server **30** to operate independent of each other. Event message provider **40a** implements an event message routine **80** in accordance with the present invention as shown in **FIG. 3A**.

Referring additionally to **FIG. 3A**, during stage **S82** of routine **80**, event message provider **40a** monitors queue **40b** to determine if directory service provider server **30** has sent a modification message **MM_n** to queue **40b**. Modification message **MM_n** is the description of a directory data manipulation request received by directory service provider server **30** and the corresponding manipulated data within master directory database **31**. Upon a determination that modification message **MM_n** is in queue **40b**, event message provider **40a** proceeds to stage **S84** of routine **80** to assign a sequence number **SN_n** to modification message **MM_n** and to write sequence number **SN_n** to master directory database **31**. During its next replicate cycle, master directory database **31** replicates all data to replicate directory database **32** to thereby store the manipulated data and sequence number **SN_n** within replicate directory database **32**. Sequence number **SN_n** serves as a marker indicating the corresponding manipulated data from master directory database **31** is stored within replicate

directory database 32.

Event message provider 40a proceeds to stage S86 to provide an event message EM_N to event service server 41. Event message EM_N includes an event notification EN_N that is modification message MM_N or an edited version thereof.

- 5 Event message EM_N further includes sequence number SN_N . Event message provider 40a then returns to stage S82 to await modification message MM_{N+1} .

Referring again to FIGS. 1A and 2, directory event system 11 further comprises a replicate data monitor 41a and a queue 41b within event service server 41. In response to event message EM_N , replicate data monitor 41a
10 implements an event notification routine 90 in accordance with the present invention as shown in FIG. 3B.

Referring additionally to FIG. 3B, during stage S92 of routine 90, replicate data monitor 41a stores sequence number SN_N within queue 41b. Replicate data monitor 41a proceeds to stage S94 of routine 90 to poll replicate directory
15 database 32 for a sequence number SN_{MAX} stored therein. Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate there can be a significant gap of time from a completion of the writing of sequence number SN_N to master directory database 31 by event message provider 40a and a subsequent completion of the replication of all of the data within master directory database 31, including the manipulated data and
20 sequence number SN_N , to replicate directory database 32. As such, those of ordinary skill in the art will further appreciate that sequence number SN_N being greater than sequence number SN_{MAX} is an indication that the replication of all of the data within master directory database 31, including the manipulated data and sequence number SN_N , has not occurred. Conversely, those of ordinary skill in
25 the art will further appreciate that sequence number SN_N being less than or equal to sequence number SN_{MAX} is an indication that the replication of all of the data within master directory database 31, including the manipulated data and sequence number SN_N , has occurred.

Thus, during stage **S96** of routine **90**, replicate data monitor **41a** compares sequence number **SN_N** and sequence number **SN_{MAX}** to determine if sequence number **SN_N** is less than or equal to sequence number **SN_{MAX}**. If sequence number **SN_N** is greater than sequence number **SN_{MAX}**, replicate data monitor **41a** loops back to stage **S94**. If sequence number **SN_N** is less than or equal to sequence number **SN_{MAX}**, replicate data monitor **41a** proceeds to stage **S98** to provide event notification **EN_N** (or an edited version thereof) to event client server **42** and event client server **43**.

Referring again to **FIGS. 1A** and **2**, directory event system **11** further comprises an event notifier **42a** and a directory client register **42b** within event client server **42**. Each directory client of directory clients **50a-50c** selectively registers for one or more event services via directory client register **42b**. Event notifier **42a** provides event notification **EN_N** to each directory client **50a-50c** that registered for an event service corresponding to event notification **EN_N**. In response to event notification **EN_N**, the registered directory client(s) **50a-50c** can immediately poll replicate directory database **32** for the corresponding manipulated data.

Directory event system **11** also comprises an event notifier analogous to event notifier **42a** and a directory client register analogous directory client register **42b** within event client server **43** and event client server **44**. Event client server **43** provides event notification **EN_N** to the registered directory client(s) **50d-50f** in response to event notification **EN_N** from event service server **41**. In response to event notification **EN_N**, the registered directory client(s) **50d-50f** can immediately poll replicate directory database **32** for the corresponding manipulated data. Event client server **44** provides event notification **EN_N** to the registered directory client(s) **50g-50i** in response to event notification **EN_N** from event master server **40**. In response to event notification **EN_N**, the registered directory client(s) **50g-50i** can immediately poll master directory database **31** for

the corresponding manipulated data.

It is important to note that while the present invention has been described in the context of a fully functioning data processing system, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the processes of the present invention are capable of being distributed in the forms of instructions in a computer readable medium and a variety of other forms, regardless of the particular type of signal bearing media actually used to carry out the distribution. Examples of computer readable media include media such as EPROM, ROM, tape, paper, floppy disc, hard disk drive, RAM, CD-ROM, and transmission-type media, such as digital and analog communications links.

While the embodiments of the present invention disclosed herein are presently considered to be preferred, various changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. The scope of the invention is indicated in the appended claims, and all changes that come within the meaning and range of equivalents are intended to be embraced therein.